

**Remarks/Arguments**

Claims 1-13 are pending. Claims 1-12 have been allowed.

Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over IEEE 1394.1. Bridge Standards Meeting / Talk Title: Wireless Bridge with Virtual Bus / Sato, in view of Iijima (US Patent 6,286,071).

As an initial matter, applicants respectfully submit that Iijima is not a proper prior art reference in the present application. Since Iijima is based on a PCT application, applicants submit that the effective date of the Iijima reference under 35 USC 371 (c) for prior art purposes is the US filing date, which is March 7, 2000. The present application claims a priority date of March 25, 1998. In that regard, applicants have attached herewith a certified translation of the priority document. As the priority date precedes the effective date of Iijima, applicants submit that Iijima is not a prior art reference in the present application.

However, even if Iijima is considered, applicants submit that present claim 13 is patentably distinguishable over the cited combination of references.

Iijima relates to a single serial bus, of which certain sections are isolated to permit concurrent transmission of certain data. Sato relates to a wireless network of n wireless portals connecting independent IEEE 1394 busses. These are altogether different environments. Applicants submit that a combination of Sato and Iijima would result in connecting a serial bus of Iijima to a bridge portal of Sato. This combination would not yield the claimed invention.

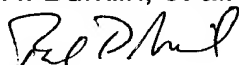
Furthermore, Applicants submit that neither Sato nor Iijima provide any teaching or suggestion to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the references in the manner suggested, and that any such combination constitutes use of impermissible hindsight reconstruction.

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In view of the above, applicants submit that present claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over the combination of Sato and Iijima.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully solicited in view of the above remarks. If the Examiner has any further concerns regarding the above, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicants' attorney at (609) 734-6815, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled.

Respectfully submitted,  
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#### CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, Virginia, 22313-1450 on:

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